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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3458
Docket No.: 614.1921

S&H Form: (2/01)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Tadao NAKAZAWA, et al.

Serial No. 09/248,103

Group Art Unit: 3458

Confirmation No. 8397

Filed: February 11, 1999

Examiner: A. Bello

For: ACOUSTO-OPTICAL TUNABLE FILTERS CASCADED TOGETHER

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

OCT 28 2002

Technology Center 2600

Attention: **BOX AF**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on November 23, 2002.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-89 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15, 18-22, 35-59, 62-68, 78-80 AND 86-89 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HARTMANN (USP 3,775,761)

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to an apparatus comprising first and second "optical" filters which filter "light." Various of the claims specifically recite an acousto-optical tunable filter (AOTF). See, for example, claim 18. An AOTF is a type of "optical" filter which filters "light."

In the first paragraph under item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts